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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Interviews with George Gaffney

1. Mr. Gaffney is retired Federal Bureau of Narcotics and formerly served as senior FBN representative in New York, during the period of the apartments and earlier as senior FBN representative in Atlanta. The latter assignment is relevant as [REDACTED] was assigned there as Gaffney's deputy after he was relieved of his position in Houston in 1954. [REDACTED] was senior FBN representative in Houston at the time of White's investigation of the Houston Police Force. He was recalled while that investigation was in progress for publicly criticizing White's tactics.

2. Mr. Gaffney said that the apartment was leased approximately 1959 and was closed in 1965. He was New York district supervisor from 1956 - 1962. He will swear that CIA never used it while he was there. He received only one call to stay away from the apartment during his tenure and that was from the FBN - he acknowledged that the request could have been relayed from CIA.

3. He further stated there were no drugs associated with the apartment nor had there been at any time any suggestion that drugs were to be used either with the safehouse (apartment) or in any other way.

4. The apartment had been used by visiting politicians, U.N. personnel, and senior FBN people. It had been used operationally in the Stadter case and others, had been used as a command post in a case involving diplomats, had been used operationally while Castro was visiting the U.N., had been used during the "Single Convention" as a convenient meeting/entertainment spot, had been used to meet newspaper people for interviews, etc., and had been used socially. For example, every time a big case was broken the office would hold a "victory celebration"; one was held when the "French Connection" was closed out and there were several others. It was a convenient and useful facility.

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5. As a result of the allegations against White (re drugs) and of the Olson suicide, Gaffney suggested we review White's diaries particularly closely during his 1954 sojourn in Houston, Texas. During that TDY he charged virtually the entire Houston Police Force for drug violations. Officer Bilnitzer apparently committed suicide (shot himself twice) in his office the morning after being interrogated by White and Giordano. Bilnitzer had confessed, which was recorded, to misuse of seized drugs and had implicated other officers. White suspected he was murdered. Bilnitzer's death was judged to be a suicide. The Chief of Police was determined to be addicted to cocaine. The episode created a scandal which escalated to the Secretary of the Treasury, J. Edgar Hoover, and the Attorney General.

6. The senior resident FBN officer in Houston, [REDACTED] was recalled (he publicly criticized White and supported the Houston Police) and was later assigned to Gaffney to serve out his time prior to retirement. Gaffney had heard much from [REDACTED] about the episode - and apparently critical of White. [REDACTED] had stated to Gaffney that Bilnitzer had no reason to commit suicide and he suspected the suicide had been provoked by excessive threats and abuse by White. Gaffney remembered the LSD provoked suicide by Olson and after the recent revelations put 2 and 2 together and suggested the possibility that White had used a drug (possibly LSD) on Bilnitzer which had similarly provoked his suicide. He suggested we review White's effects carefully for any evidence to support or deny that hypothesis. He expressed some surprise that none of the journalists had yet made such an assumption. He emphasized that he raised this point not as an accusation but only to assure we had covered all bases.

[REDACTED]